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16. THE SOCIAL SPIDER, *STEGODYPHUS SARASINORUM*
KARSCH. FEEDING ON THE LEMON BUTTERFLY,
PAPILIO DEMOLEUS LINN.

The senior author during a visit to Hatta village in Parbhani District found the webs of the Social Spider holding the dead bodies of the adult lemon butterflies *Papilio demoleus* Linn. on orange trees in a citrus garden. Some of the webbed branches were collected and brought to the laboratory where the webs were kept under a bell jar with a piece of cotton swab dipped in chloroform and spiders that emerged out of the web and died were counted and preserved in 70% alcohol. The webs were then cut and the butterflies separated and counted. It was observed that the bigger webs on an average had 58 spiders and the smaller webs 26 spiders, living almost in the heart of the web. On an average 18 and 8 adult lemon butterflies were collected from the bigger and small webs respectively. The abdomen of the butterflies were completely eaten.

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